

## **VIA ECFS**

March 7, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Attn: Wireline Competition Bureau

Re:

WC Docket No. 10-90

Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest - Rate-of-Return and Price Cap Areas

CooperativesONE, LLC

Dear Ms. Dortch:

CooperativesONE, LLC (CoopsONE) hereby expresses interest in participating in the Commission's Rural Broadband Experiments to provide robust, scalable high-speed broadband to unserved and underserved high-cost areas with additional Connect America funding. CoopsONE is a consortium of three southwestern Indiana cooperatives (Dubois Rural Electric Cooperative (DREC), Perry-Spencer Rural Telephone Cooperative (PSC), and Southern Indian Power (SIP)) that provide communications and electric distribution services to thousands of members/customers in Southwest Indiana.

Realizing the need for high-speed broadband service in the most difficult high-cost areas we collectively serve, CoopsONE was formed to deploy satellite based high-speed Internet. At that time, satellite deployments were the quickest and most economically feasible means of serving our high-cost areas - knowing, however, satellite technology came with deficiencies. Today, more than ever, these high-cost rural areas need access to a much more robust and scalable broadband network. Without hesitation, the most cost effective and efficient manner to deploy such a network would be through working together. Once completed, our entire membership bases would have access to a fiber optic connection that would be utilized for both high-speed communication and electric distribution purposes.

# **Proposed Service Area**

Upon completion of this project, all members of the three cooperatives will be connected to our fiber optic network. The three cooperative territories are as follows;

DREC – Serves 13,350 meters in the Indiana counties of Crawford, Dubois, Perry, Pike, Orange and Martin.

PSC – Serves 4,711 ILEC access lines and 1,250 CLEC access lines in the Indiana counties of Crawford, Dubois, Perry, Pike, Spencer and Warrick.

SIP – Serves 10,000 meters in the Indiana counties of Perry, Spencer, Dubois and Warrick. Much of our service territory overlaps, thus enabling efficiencies in the engineering, design and deployment of this fiber optic network.

Cooperatives ONE, LLC P.O. Box 126, Saint Meinrad, Indiana 47577 (877) 266-7701

### Proposed Broadband Services

#### **Communication Services**

PSC provides Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP) service in many parts of its ILEC and CLEC territories, offering voice, data/high-speed Internet and video (IPTV) services. In addition, PSC has constructed a regional fiber network (R-Net) providing wide area network (WAN) transport and high-bandwidth Ethernet services to medium-to-large enterprises and anchor institutions, such as healthcare facilities, governments and school corporations. R-Net connects with the Indiana Fiber Network (IFN) giving customers connectivity to all parts of the state and region.

Currently, PSC is in the middle of a \$29M FTTP project within its cooperative ILEC regulated service territory. This RUS funding will cover approximately 70% of PSC's member base. The remaining 30% resides in very high-cost areas. It is this 30% and all other cooperative members residing outside our three cooperatives territory overlap, which will be provided PSC's existing line of products and services.

#### **Electric Distribution Services**

DREC and SIP will connect all substations with fiber optics for not only SCADA related services, but for video security monitoring as well. Residential and business meters will be tied to the fiber network, eliminating meter readers and commencing the tracking of energy usage. In time, the fiber network will be utilized for its two-way communication ability enabling customers/members to initiate "load control" measures to control devices. Once smart chipsets become common place in everyday appliances, the "smart" use of energy will become even more reliant on broadband two-way communications. We feel energy distribution methods are in their infancy with much more to come, but vital to its future advancement is having a fiber optic network in place.

#### Funding

Currently, CoopsONE does not have an estimate to complete this project, but it will be economically impossible to deploy without financial assistance from the Connect America Fund. Individually, each of our companies has demonstrated leadership within our respective industries and is very member-driven in serving our part of rural America. Together, we have demonstrated we work well together, having formed CoopsONE to serve the most remote parts of Southern Indiana. We have the resources and knowledge to make the most effective and efficient use of CAF dollars, and look forward to later presenting our complete broadband build plans.

CoopsONE appreciates the opportunity to provide this non-binding Expression of Interest. Please contact Jim Dauby (<u>idauby@psci.net</u>) with any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Book General Manager

DREC

James M. Dauby— President and CEO

PSC

Steven Seibert President and CEO

SIP